

# The Point

Fitchburg State College's student newspaper

## Seriously, Friday's coming

New plans may signal the end of 4-day weeks

By Tim McCarthy

Fridays have long been regarded on college campuses across the nation as a day of rest for students and professors alike. From an outsider's perspective, it may appear as though the ivory towers act as support posts for a hammock in the sun; yet the lazy days could soon be coming to an end.

According to a recent article in the Boston Globe, Framingham State College is one of many campuses planning to increase the number of Friday classes, in part to curb the infamous "Thirsty Thursday" binge drinking that plagues resident student life. The prescribed plan involves increasing the number of classes on Fridays and requiring professors teaching such classes to schedule more tests and assignment due dates on Fridays.

The new policy was inspired in part by a study conducted the University of Missouri, which found that students who did not have morning classes on Fridays would down an average of 2.52 drinks on a Thursday night. Those with Friday morning classes would average only 1.24. Additionally, two-thirds of students who did drink on Thursday nights were binge drinkers.

Although Fitchburg State College hasn't implemented an aggressive policy yet, the administration is



Staff photo by Meagan Benevides

**Thursday nights are traditionally a time for students to cut loose, but that may change as colleges push for more Friday-morning classes.**

quietly working toward a major shift in the treatment of Fridays within the campus culture.

"For the last five or six years we've really tried, each semester, to increase the number of Friday classes," said Dr. Shirley Wagner, vice president of Academic Affairs. "I've asked about four to five different departments to increase the number of Friday classes; one has already done so, and I expect all of the others will also do so."

According to Wagner, the overall plan isn't simply to cut into the nightlife of certain students, but to encourage a serious commitment to academics across the entire working week.

"Our goal is to have - from one day to the next - a good number of classes on every day for students to take," she said. "Our No. 1 goal is for students to be able to academically schedule in an appropriate way, not to have so many classes one day that they get exhausted

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## Mayor can make a difference

By Teale Karow Reynolds

You've seen the signs all over town, posted on front lawns and even carried by smiling campaign volunteers: "Lisa Wong for Mayor," or "Vote Tom Donnelly."

But as a busy student at Fitchburg State College, do you really give those signs much thought? When there is so much schoolwork to do, is there any reason to pay attention to the Fitchburg mayoral election?

Yes, there is - because each candidate has plans that will directly affect us here at FSC.

The preliminary election was held on Sept. 25, narrowing the race down to two candidates: Lisa Wong, with 3,425 votes; and Tom Donnelly, with 1,228 votes. Only about 25 percent of Fitchburg's registered voters came out for this election - meaning that just about a quarter of the city made the decision for everyone.

Lisa Wong, the front-runner with 62.5 percent of the vote, is an honors graduate of Boston University with a master's degree in economics. She is an economic development consultant who has served as director of the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority.

Among her plans for FSC: "I'd like to make it easier for students to patronize local businesses by being able to use their One Cards at services throughout the city, instead of just FSC," Wong said in a recent interview. "From dry cleaning to restaurants to spas, it would be great for the city businesses and great for the FSC community to be able to access these services."

She said she would also like to make FSC a more "walkable" college by improving the sidewalks and street lighting.

Wong also discussed the hot topic of student parking. She said she would like to "create parking plans and clear signage for residential neighborhoods to improve relations between neighbors and students." She also hopes to "explore adding additional shuttles so college students can [have better] access."

Student safety is a concern for Wong, too. She said she would like to enhance it through partnerships between campus police and the city police. And, she mentioned, she would

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## Virtual tour offers enhanced view



Fitchburg State College President Robert Antonucci greets students in a video that's part of the college's new virtual tour. This multimedia introduction to the FSC campus was recently unveiled; see story on Page 2.



# Virtual tour offers view of campus

By Mike Prescott

While art may imitate life, computers can actually enhance it.

That was the message earlier this month, when Fitchburg State College unveiled a new, multimedia "virtual campus tour" that provides prospective students with video, photos, and information dealing with the college and student life.

"Students today are extremely tech savvy," said Fitchburg State College President Robert Antonucci, "so it is critically important that we offer them the level of technological sophistication they are accustomed to."

At a public demonstration of the new tour on Sept. 27, a video glamorizing the college's surroundings drew the biggest unintentional laughs from the audience of students, faculty, and staff, something that hints at perhaps one of the biggest problems that the college faces with prospective students.

"This will make the college look great, and the city look even better," Antonucci said at the start of the presentation. The idea of making things look better was the underlying theme of both the presentation and the new virtual tour overall.

"We may have gone a little overboard, particularly with the parts about Fitchburg," joked Michael Shanley, executive assistant to the president for external affairs. On the campus map portion of the tour, all of the campus buildings are illustrated and featured, but the residential neighborhoods surrounding the college are not. Instead, they're replaced with thick forests of trees. Shanley noted that Mapformation, the Minnesota-based company that designed the map, has done the same with other college campuses, and it wasn't something done to downplay the urban setting of Fitchburg State.

The new virtual tour also offers

several new ways for prospective students to experience the college without making a trip — something that many colleges are incorporating into their Web sites. "Colleges have recognized the primacy of their Web sites, and especially their virtual tours, in the recruitment of prospective students," said Chris Carson, president of CampusTours, who provided technical assistance for the Fitchburg State project. "These days the virtual tour is often the first thing a student sees from a college or university, and the message it sends needs to be stimulating and encourage further exploration."

Fitchburg State's new tour does just that, providing many different avenues for college information to be conveyed. For example, there are 11 video interviews with students, faculty, and alumni, all touting their personal experiences at the college.

The main feature, however, is the video tour section, offering 10

different videos that feature different aspects of life at Fitchburg State. The admissions video outlines the facts and figures involved in the admissions process, for example, while the arts and activities video describes all the clubs, organizations, and events that the college hosts. During each video, "related topics" pop up on screen, offering in-depth information on many aspects of each topic. They all feature photos, some of which are panoramic, to give prospective students an up-close view of the campus.

As things change around campus, the tour will change as well. Shanley assured students and academic departments that the virtual tour is easy to update, though some changes may be more time-consuming than others.

The new virtual tour is now available on the Fitchburg State College Web site, through a link at the top of the home page.

## Colleges study options for Fridays

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on that day." Wagner added, "We are aware that some of the research nationally shows that if you have more Friday classes available, especially for the students that live on campus, it may cut down on problems like binge drinking. If it has that additional positive effect of reducing problems such as alcoholism and binge drinking, that would be another added benefit of having Friday classes."

The quest for three-day week-ends begins even before students get to campus, Wagner said. "When Academic Affairs works the summer registrations, even freshmen come in saying they don't want Friday classes. Where they get that notion, I don't know. That's not an easy thing for us to deal with."

One additional way of dealing with it, Wagner said, is by scheduling more of the "major-requirement classes" on Fridays.

Through it all, FSC's faculty remains eager to serve the needs of both students and the administration. Dr. Walter Jeffko, a humanities professor at FSC, said, "I think all of us want to do what's best for the students. I don't think any of us have a presumptive right to Friday off."

Jeffko also brought up the positive side of a four-day class schedule, saying, "I've used Friday for professional work, and I'm sure a lot of faculty use Friday for professional work."

He continued, "The schedule



Staff photo by Meagan Benevides

### Thursday-night karaoke is fun while it lasts.

should reflect whatever is in the best interest of the students. Students shouldn't see Friday classes as just a blow-off class."

Of course, such a policy would have no effect if it fell on the deaf ears of unwilling students. However, many seem receptive to the idea. "Friday is a day of the week like anything else, so I don't think it's unfair at all," said Steve Bailey, a senior at FSC. "If you take a class, you have to be responsible for whatever day it falls on. You come to school here to go to school."

"Not to say that you shouldn't party on Thursday nights or it's wrong, but that shouldn't be your aim when you're coming to college. I don't think there's anything wrong with the administration creating more Friday classes. Thursdays [partying and drinking] are practically an institution by now."

Evan Freeman, a junior, did express some doubt by saying, "Most of the teachers I have on Friday classes don't want to be there to begin with, especially if it's after 12 o'clock. Usually they give us a lighter workload, but if the college says they have to do stuff, it puts more pressure on them."

Academic Affairs does insist, however, that in no way would Friday classes become mandated into student schedules. Jeffko adds that even implementing such a rule would be of little use now. "[Fridays off are] part of our longstanding culture here, it goes back to when the four-day schedule for faculty was instituted so many years ago," Jeffko said. "The students are just reacting to what the administration decided. You can change a rule, but it takes a long time for a rule to seep into the culture."

## Mayor may make mark on FSC

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like to "attract growing businesses that allow graduates to find good-paying jobs locally."

In a more general sense, Wong said, "My plans for the city are to ensure that Fitchburg is a vibrant community with a strong economic base. This includes celebrating our cultural diversity through businesses, festivals and, most importantly, ensuring all citizens are engaged civically throughout the year."

Further information about Wong's plans for the city can be obtained from her Web site, [www.votelisawong.com](http://www.votelisawong.com).

Also in the running for mayor is Tom Donnelly, a resident and active member of the Fitchburg community for over 45 years.

Numerous attempts to reach Donnelly for an interview were unsuccessful. According to his Web site, [www.donnellyformayor.com](http://www.donnellyformayor.com), he is a Fitchburg State College alumnus and has been involved in city government since 1988. Also according to the site, his plans for the city include improvement of local neighborhoods and overall safety. He also plans to reorganize the city government, and make improvements in the public school system.

The general election will be held on Nov. 6. If you are not yet registered to vote, contact the city clerk by Oct. 17.



# Calendar of events

## Oct. 12

**Movie screening** – 7-9 p.m.; “1408”; free; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building; sponsored by: Housing and Residential Services

**Theater performance** – 7:30 p.m., “The Purple Breasts,” a play about a woman’s struggle with breast cancer; \$5 for students, senior citizens, FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; a production of the English and ITEC departments; McKay Auditorium

## Oct. 13

**Theater performance** – 7:30 p.m., “The Purple Breasts,” a play about a woman’s struggle with breast cancer; \$5 for students, senior citizens, FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; a production of the English and ITEC departments; McKay Auditorium

**Falcons Football** – 1:30 p.m., away game at Worcester

**Falcons Field Hockey** – noon, away game at Plymouth State

**Falcons Men’s Soccer** – noon, home game v. Westfield State

**Falcons Women’s Soccer** – 1 p.m., away game at Westfield State

## Oct. 14

**Movie screening** – 7-9 p.m.; “1408”; free; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building; sponsored by: Housing and Residential Services

**Theater performance** – 2 p.m., “The Purple Breasts,” a play about a woman’s struggle with breast cancer; \$5 for students, senior citizens, FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; a production of the English and ITEC departments; McKay Auditorium

**Falcons Women’s Soccer** – noon, home game v. Wheelock College

## Oct. 15

**Falcons Field Hockey** – 7 p.m., away game at Nichols College

## Oct. 16

**Movie screening** – 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.; Lina Wertmuller’s “The Seduction of Mimi”; \$3 for students, \$5 for senior citizens and FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond



Singer Rudy Currence will share his soulful sound with students on Oct. 17 in the Underground Pub.

Building; the 7 p.m. screening will include a talk by Dr. Grace Russo Bullaro of City University of New York; sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State College

**Falcons Men’s Soccer** – 7 p.m., away game at Nichols College

## Oct. 17

**Rudy Currence** – 9-11 p.m.; concert by R&B and soul artist; free at the door for FSC students, \$5 for general public; Underground Pub, Hammond Building; sponsored by SGA Programs Committee

**Theater performance** – 7:30 p.m., “The Purple Breasts,” a play about a woman’s struggle with breast cancer; \$5 for students, senior citizens, FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; a production of the English and ITEC departments; McKay Auditorium

**Falcons Field Hockey** – 7 p.m., home game v. Westfield State

## Oct. 18

**Double Feature Comedy Night** – 9-11 p.m.; performance by comedians Dan Ahdoot and Dennis Donahue; free; 18+ FSC One Card required for

entry; Underground Pub, Hammond Building; sponsored by SGA Programs Committee

**Theater performance** – 6:30 p.m., “The Purple Breasts,” a play about a woman’s struggle with breast cancer; \$5 for students, senior citizens, FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; a production of the English and ITEC departments; McKay Auditorium

## Oct. 19

**Theater performance** – 7:30 p.m., “The Purple Breasts,” a play about a woman’s struggle with breast cancer; \$5 for students, senior citizens, FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; a production of the English and ITEC departments; McKay Auditorium

## Oct. 20

**Class of 1957 Gold Key Reunion** – 9 a.m.-11 p.m.; events include 9 a.m. breakfast, guided walking tour of campus, 1:30 p.m. Falcons game; for more information call 978-665-3441; sponsored by FSC Alumni Association

**John McDermott** – 8-10 p.m., performance by Irish tenor; \$10 for students, \$28 for general public; Weston Auditorium; for more information call the Weston Box

Office at 978-665-3347; sponsored by Workers’ Credit Union with additional support from the Ann Hyland-Zimmerman Irish Culture Fund.

**Theater performance** – 7:30 p.m., “The Purple Breasts,” a play about a woman’s struggle with breast cancer; \$5 for students, senior citizens, FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; a production of the English and ITEC departments; McKay Auditorium

**Falcons Football** – 1:30 p.m., home game v. Mass. Maritime

**Falcons Field Hockey** – 10 a.m., home game v. Keene State

**Falcons Men’s Soccer** – 6 p.m., home game v. Mass. Maritime

## Oct. 23

**Falcons Women’s Soccer** – 6 p.m., away game at Emmanuel College

## Oct. 24

**Magic show** – 9-11 p.m.; performance by magician Justin Kredible; free; 18+ FSC One Card required for entry; Underground Pub, Hammond Building; sponsored by Programs Committee

## Oct. 25

**Movie screening** – 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.; Lina Wertmuller’s “Ciao, Professore”; \$3 for FSC students; \$5 for senior citizens and FSC faculty and staff; \$7 for general public; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building; sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture at FSC

**Falcons Men’s Soccer** – 3 p.m., away game at Eastern Connecticut

## Oct. 27

**Children’s Halloween Party** – 1-3 p.m.; includes face painting, bobbing for apples, pumpkin bowling, and haunted crypts; free and open to the public; G-Lobby and Alumni Rooms, Hammond Building; sponsored by FSC’s Greek Council

## Ongoing

**Gallery Exhibition** – Through Nov. 15, “Celestial Nights: Visions of an Ancient Land”; Campus Center Art Gallery, Hammond Building.

## Theater production puts the focus on breast cancer

The Fitchburg State College theater program is presenting the play “Purple Breasts” throughout October as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The play was created and co-authored by Daryl Lindstrom, who lost her life to breast cancer in 1989 after a prolonged fight. “Purple Breasts,”

named for the purple marks that show what area of the breasts will receive radiation treatment, is about a young woman named Zoe who learns she has the deadliest form of breast cancer.

The play runs through Oct. 20 at the McKay Campus School auditorium. Performances on Oct. 12, 13,

17, 19, and 20 begin at 7:30 p.m. A Sunday matinee will be presented at 2 p.m. Oct. 14. A special commuter performance will be held at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18. Admission is \$5 for Fitchburg State students as well as seniors, and is \$7 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Wil Kilroy is guest director for the program. He had worked with Lindstrom to create the play. Cast includes Meghan O’Brien, Dominique Bertel, Jillian Sauvageau, Rachel Gammon, Sara Cormier, Elisabeth Hughes, Timothy Scott, Bria Sullivan, Paul Cushing, and Kelly Stowell.



# Letter: Students embrace healthy choices

To the Editor,

In response to the article entitled "Falcons set to soar past rocky start," which appeared in the Sept. 28 issue of The Point, I must take issue with Brian Way's opening statement, "While most students at Fitchburg State were busy partying as if it were their jobs on the first weekend back at college, the students on the football team were working full force to begin the season with a victory."

By beginning his article this way, Mr. Way suggests that it is the norm for college students to engage in high-risk behavior, further reinforcing a widely held misperception.

I am not arguing that all college students make healthy choices around

## *Gathering without alcohol proves a popular campus alternative*

alcohol; there is likely a percentage of students on every campus that drink in excess and experience physical, psychological, and/or social consequences of doing so. That percentage however, is probably lower than you think.

According to the American College Health Association, more than 20 percent of college students nationwide choose not to drink at all (National College Health Assessment, Spring 2006); about 60 percent of college students in the United States report having had 0-4 drinks the last time they

"partied." At Fitchburg State College, the percentage of students engaging in lower-risk drinking is even higher. More than 70 percent of FSC students report having had 0-4 drinks the last time they "partied" (Campus Community Partnership Initiative Survey, 2007).

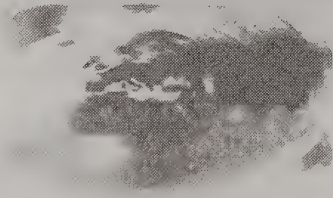
The data show that the majority of college students are making healthy choices. Failing to acknowledge that fact not only compromises our students' reputations, but also influences students to drink more than they might

otherwise drink in order to "measure up" to a standard that in actuality is unfounded.

Mr. Way probably did not intend to distribute inaccurate information about college students' drinking habits; his article after all, was about the football team's opening game.

It is my hope that in responding to the article, I have provided more accurate information about students' choices regarding alcohol, but also that I have inspired others to speak out about the realities of college life in a more productive manner.

Erin K. Travia  
Prevention Coordinator  
Fitchburg State College



### **LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING?**

### **WANTING TO FEEL MORE CONNECTED TO YOUR CLASSMATES AND PROFESSORS?**

### **WONDERING HOW THE VARIOUS COURSES YOU TAKE CONNECT TO EACH OTHER?**

*Sign up for one of 2 Learning Communities offered to Freshmen this spring! In a Learning Community, a group of students take 3 of the same courses. Those courses are connected with a common theme or set of questions. There are also common assignments that cut across the course, so the faculty coordinate their themes, assignments, and due dates.*

*Option 1: "Technology and the Real World" brings together PHYS 1100 Physical Science (Yu), Engl 1200 Writing 2 (Williams), and Math 1250 Intro to Functions (Barbato).*

*Option 2: "World in Motion" brings together HIST 1150 World Civ 3 (Lieberman), IDIS 1800 Global Issues (Budd), and Engl 1200 Writing 2(Railton)*

## Italian films to be screened

Two films by Italian director Lina Wertmuller will be presented at Fitchburg State College in October.

"The Seduction of Mimi" can be seen at 2 and 7 p.m. on Oct. 16 in the Ellis White Lecture Hall of the Hammond Campus Center. The film is comedy involving the Mafia, a secret life, and revenge.

A talk by Dr. Grace Russo Bullaro of the City University of New York, author of "Man in Disorder: The Cinema of Lina Wertmüller in the 1970s," will precede the 7 p.m. screening.

"Ciao, Professore" will be shown at 2 and 7 p.m. on Oct. 25 in the Ellis White Lecture Hall. It is a drama about a teacher sent to a poor town outside Naples, who must work to convince the children about the importance of education. In turn, the students show their teacher the harsh realities of life in their town.

Tickets for both films can be purchased at the door. The cost is \$3 for Fitchburg State College students and visitors under 18 years old; \$7 for the general public; and \$5 for seniors.

For more information, call the Weston Box Office at (978) 665-3347 Monday through Friday 12:30-3:30 p.m.; information is also available by calling (978) 665-3709.

Wertmuller achieved international fame (and an Oscar) during the 1970s for her always controversial comedies that lambasted social mores, political structures, religion and family in Italy. She was lionized for her visual and conceptual originality by some critics, and reviled for her alleged misogyny and barely disguised racism by others. The polarized nature of the criticism is proof of the fascination and complexity of her films.

The events are sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State College.



# Massachusetts college graduates are now required to have health insurance. (Good idea.)

If you're graduating and staying in Massachusetts, you're required to have health insurance. And it's now more affordable than ever for recent college grads, and easier to get, through the state's Health Connector. That's where you can compare plans, get information, and choose the right plan for you. Call or visit our website.

**1-877-MA-ENROLL**  
**MAhealthconnector.org**



Health **Connector**



# They can call it puppy love

## Upperclassmen open apartments to furry friends

By James Tirabassi

Do you ever wish that you could have somebody to talk to whenever you needed a friend? Ever looking for somebody who will always be there for you unconditionally when you get home from a long stressful day?

Then why not get a dog?

It seems to be the perfect answer for a lot of Fitchburg State College students living in off-campus apartments. It's hard not to notice the steady growth in the amount of upperclassmen taking in dogs to live with them.

However, owning a dog is not all fun and games. "It takes a lot of responsibility and a good amount of extra cash," says Joe Gatto, an upperclassman at FSC.

And different people are drawn to different types of dogs.

"I've always wanted a Pomeranian, ever since I was little," says Jackie Bryant, who paid \$700 for a purebred.

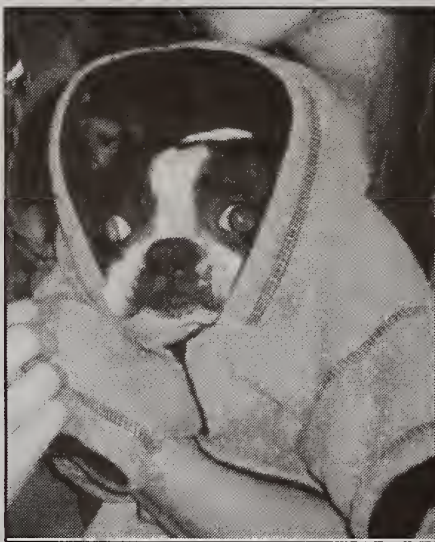
Others, however, have acquired their dogs for little or no money. One FSC student says, "I got NYCE from some of my friends because they were having a baby and did not want to risk anything bad happening because of the dog."

Sometimes puppies can be obtained, free of cost, from people whose dog has recently given birth to a litter. But as Tristan Noone says, "There is absolutely no such thing as a free puppy." That's because the initial cost is only the beginning. "Vet bills, vaccinations, getting them spayed or neutered, dog food, dog sitters, and even having to replace all the things your dog has chewed up or destroyed otherwise, are expenses you have to think about before considering pet ownership," explains Noone.

Destructive or annoying behavior does not have to be permanent, however. There are many effective methods for training animals, according to Jackie, a longtime employee at Petco in Leominster.

"First of all, you should never hit your dog. This leads them to fear you rather than respect you," she explains.

"Also, you should train your dog using positive reinforcement," rewarding your pup for good



Staff photos  
by Megan Benevides

**Allie, Brook and Ari give Piggles a kiss, top; Piggles cuddles in a blanket, above; and Tristan Noone gives his roommate's dog, Nuggets, a big hug, right.**



behavior. "Most dogs love treats," Jackie continues, "so find one your dog likes specifically and use it to motivate your pet to act how you want them to."

"Soon the dog automatically associates good behavior with the treats and it will become second nature to him or her."

Jackie also suggests that instead of hitting your dog when it misbehaves, "an assertive loud scolding is plenty to discourage the dog from doing it again."

Even with all the responsibility, some of the students without dogs are becoming more and more interested in getting one of their own.

FSC student Tim Benoit, for example, said that upon seeing the dogs and what they offer, he is considering getting a black Lab.

Christopher Blickman, also a student at FSC, said that having a dog is like having a "magnet for happiness."

If that's true, it's not surprising that so many students want puppies of their own.



# Underage drinking gets zero tolerance from police

By Kaleigh Peterson

"How can I take this quarter cup of beer and ruin my career?" This statement by Sgt. Glenn Fossa of the Fitchburg Police Department sums up the gravity of underage drinking and its consequences.

Since 2004, Fitchburg State (along with four other colleges and universities) has been part of a five-year project called the Campus/Community Partnership Initiative, which is a zero-tolerance policy against underage drinking. This policy extends even to the cities in which these colleges and universities are located, and prosecutes businesses that sell to underage people.

This policy was enacted to protect the students, their peers and neighbors. According to a Fitchburg Police Department Powerpoint document, 27 percent of students who drank in 2005 engaged in "unplanned sexual activity," and another 26 percent drove drunk.

This policy is also an effort to clean up the "party-school" reputations that are shared by many colleges and universities in Massachusetts, and to bring down the publicized crime rates of the towns in which these institutions are located.

Campus Police stress that they have full staff including three road patrols and student security almost every night, including added staff on Thursdays and Saturdays. Underage drinkers can face not only consequences from the law, but also consequences (including expulsion) from school.

Campus police's main goal is the protection of the students at Fitchburg State, and they recommend that when



Police say there's nothing but trouble brewing for underage drinkers.

you go out, do not bring your expensive bags, wear expensive jewelry or give out any information, because all of those things can make you a target for crime. Officer Derrick Camelo advises that if you choose to go out at night, "Always be with a group, know the area and be aware of your surroundings." Also, know where the call boxes are on campus. The student security also provides escorts if you feel as though you need one.

Sgt. Fossa said he has been a police officer for 25 years, and in that time he has seen the majority of accidents, hospitalizations and emergency calls from young adults stem from alcohol.

He said that his favorite times were those when he was on patrol around Fitchburg State Campus, because he got to interact with people so full of hope and promise. But he followed it by saying that nothing was worse than seeing those same kids wasted on the sidewalk doing exactly that; wasting their potential.

According to the police station's information, "Alcohol is the leading contributor to causes of death each year for those under age 21, including 7,000 deaths from alcohol-related injuries; 1,500 homicides; and 300 suicides."

Sgt. Fossa says that the police, Campus Police and City Police alike, look out for the college kids and try to keep them safe, but that does not mean that they are exceptions to any laws. Both departments share information with one another, and are very aware of what is going on in Fitchburg.

Ultimately the officers urge students not to drink if they are under 21, and Sgt. Fossa says everyone needs to be aware of universal application of the open-container law.

"It's there so that we don't have things out of control in public. It's enforced year round, we would rarely make exceptions," he said.

## Razorbacks look sharp this season

By Allen Russell

Despite a heartbreaking fall from AAA division grace down to single A, the Leominster Razorbacks have arisen from the proverbial ashes with a startling five straight wins and an eye on the championship.

The Leominster Razorbacks were the worst team in the New England Football League last year. In the past two years the Razorbacks have dropped from being in the highest division, AAA, to the lowest, single A.

The Razorbacks, however, have made some changes to their team in order to make this season a success. And they showed that these changes were for the better all season - so far, they have won their first five games.

A turnaround like this is not unheard of in the league as the Notre Dame Cobras, defending single A champions, didn't win a single game in 2005; then they came out last year with a bunch of new players and went undefeated. The Razorbacks are confident that they will be able to make the same turnaround this year and win the single A championship.

Their coach, Ralph Jacques, says, "The team's ultimate goal is to win the AAA championship."

Most of the new players for the Razorbacks came from Fitchburg State College and the surrounding area. The player who has had the most impact on the team this year is the rookie quarterback Dan Sanabria.

Sanabria had never played quarterback before this year, but he says, "I was always watching quarterbacks when I played [for Fitchburg State College] and I guess it was always in the back of my head that I wanted to play."

Sanabria spent his years at Fitchburg State as a fullback. This has made him a very versatile player, with the ability to either throw the ball or run it himself.

So, can he lead his team to a championship this year? "Yes," he says, "we are the best team out there right now and we intend to let everybody know."

The playoffs for the championship will start the next weekend, but the Razorbacks have already secured a bye and will not play again until Oct. 20.

After that, the Razorbacks are hoping to advance to the championship game, which has not yet been given a specific date or time but will likely be the first week of November.

## FSC president raises profile of college

In a continuation of his longstanding role as a statewide leader in education, Fitchburg State President Robert V. Antonucci has been appointed by Gov. Deval Patrick to join other Massachusetts citizens appointed to subcommittees of the Readiness Project Leadership Council.

The president will chair the subcommittee on the University of Massachusetts and Public Higher Education. He is charged with leading the group as they facilitate collaboration among the higher education institutions within the UMass system and between the UMass institutions and all public higher education institutions in the Commonwealth.

Topics will include coordination and collaboration, cost savings opportunities and initiatives, assessment of current sector configuration, accountability and assessment tools, and the roles of the state and the institutions.

"I'm honored to join this distinguished group of citizens," the president said. "But equally important is that Fitchburg State has visibility at the highest levels of state decision-making."

The governor previously appointed the president to the Workforce Standards and Performance Accountability Task Force, which is currently at work crafting its report. In addition, he was

selected to be the chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

NEASC is the nation's oldest regional accrediting association whose mission is the establishment and maintenance of high standards for all levels of education, from pre-K to the doctoral level.

Antonucci, a former teacher, the state's commissioner of education from 1992 to 1998 and a 30-year veteran of education, is familiar with the issues that concern education institutions at all levels.



# Working students make the grade

## Jobs, classes have many pulling double duty

By Meagan Colburn  
and Cassie Urbano

Why do students go to college? The answer is more complex than a simple desire to continue school. Students go to college to work toward their careers, their futures, and their own personal happiness.

So how are students managing to live life during college, before the dream job and the first satisfying paycheck? Some have parents who foot the bills through school; some have scholarships; and others have an increasing amount of debt piling up through credit card companies.

For many students at FSC, the answer is to work full- and part-time jobs during college to help pay for the necessities.

"I have expenses that I am responsible for myself, and it's not easy to pay for them all when you're only working part-time, at minimum wage. But that's just part of going to college," says Lindsay Carey. Having a part-time job is without a doubt becoming just another piece of the college experience.

The cost of financing an education can be difficult. Though most college students are not yet paying mortgage bills each month, they do have their share of expenses.

"My major requires me to buy my own supplies," says Eliot Prisby, a senior at Fitchburg State College. Textbooks each semester can cost hundreds of dollars, ranging anywhere from \$8 for a book to \$200.

If that were not enough, tuition and fees can quickly burn a hole in any student's pocket. Fitchburg State College tuition ranges per year from \$970 for in-state students, to \$1,455 for regional students and a whopping \$7,050 for out-of-state students. Then there is the college fee of \$4,536 annually and other fees including student activity, capital projects, technology and health insurance if needed, which add up to around \$1,500.

At other colleges, the cost is even higher. Wellesley College has an annual tuition fee of \$34,000 and Northeastern College has tuition of \$31,500. Room and board is another matter entirely, as the prices range depending on which dorm hall a student chooses to live. The cost is usually over \$1,000 per year.

Many students also bring their cars to college which adds the cost of gas (currently around \$2.70 per gallon), car insurance, any repairs or routine oil changes, parking stickers (\$100 for on campus FSC students), and often car loan payments.

Cell phones are a regular commodity these days, which of course cost money. "For students it's probably safe to say around \$70-80 per month for one person if they're on an individual



Staff photo by Nicoletta Amato

**Kitchens are among the most common worksites for college students with part-time jobs.**

plan for a bunch of minutes, texting etc," says Josh Harrison, an assistant manager for AT&T.

Some students have off-campus apartments and other expenses such as clothes, food, laundry detergent and more.

It's no wonder college students have begun to take on part-time jobs to support their college career.

"Gotta pay for rent and art supplies," says Mark Shastany, a senior at the San Francisco Art Institute. But how does working alongside studying affect the students? Are they still getting the most out of their college experience?

Unfortunately, taking on a full week of classes along with a job can also lead to a decrease in personal time and social events.

"People call you and say, 'What are you doing?' and I would say, 'I'm working!'" says Ariel Rolon, a Fitchburg State alum. "I missed out on just hanging out with my friends and my girlfriend."

It can be extremely frustrating to be unable to see one's friends during college, even if it's just sitting in front of the TV watching a great show and eating pizza. And it can be even more frustrating when there seems to be absolutely no down time from work and school.

"I don't have it that bad because I only [work] weekends but that takes away from the little down time I have," says Cara Alessandrini, a former Fitchburg State College Student currently enrolled at Northeastern.

Of course the loss of social activities can be extremely frustrating and often depressing, but it all comes down to managing one's time.

Prisby says that the hardest part

about keeping a job during school is "working around your schedule." Working on just the weekends is not always an option for students if they need a larger paycheck or have a job on campus that only has weekday working hours.

Add in club meetings and big projects and it becomes harder to find free time to work, let alone get the full college experience. "I am tired all the time. I get out of work at 2 a.m. and then get up for class at 8. I have a million extracurricular [activities] too, so finding the time to do everything and still socialize is really hard," says Tamar Wolfson-Seeley, a senior at Wellesley College.

Many professors recommend that to do exceptionally well in their courses, for every hour that you spend in the classroom, you should be spending two hours outside the classroom studying and doing homework.

"I usually have about four hours of [school] work per day, which means around 28 hours per week, but if I have papers or exams in any given week, it could be up to 40 hours per week," says Wolfson-Seeley. That's about the equivalent of the amount of time spent each week on many full-time careers. Perhaps that is why students carrying the load of four or more courses at one time are called "full-time students."

It's not all bad, though, and working students find there to be many positive aspects to having a part-time job despite their frustrations.

Matt Darling, another Fitchburg State alum, jokes that the main benefit is "having more money." Yet he also adds, "It looks really good on a resume, too." Having job experience is never a bad thing. In fact, the more experience

you have, the more desirable you become as an employee.

"I get to meet more people in my profession," says Shastany, which is another great thing to have before seeking a career. Contacts can always give you great advice on finding a job once you graduate and make great references.

Even if you don't have a part time job in your field, it can still be socially beneficial. "I get to meet interesting people I would never meet in Wellesley who aren't necessarily academics," says Wolfson-Seeley.

So how can a student successfully carry the workload of school with a part-time job and still have a good time? Rolon says, "Don't pick a job at random and schedule hours that are good for you not just because they fit your schedule."

The trick is to find the right job for your needs. If you can't find a job off campus, look into work study or other on campus job titles.

Just be sure with whatever job you choose, academics come first.

"Teachers understand that you have other obligations. Your job needs to understand that school comes first. Take into account how understanding they are of academics," says Darling.

"Money is nice, but you should also remember that you're also in college to gain an education and, as sappy as it sounds, don't fail out," says Kim Pho, a sophomore at FSC and member of SGA.

Sometimes the week can seem overwhelming but, Shastany says, "If you can't quit your job or drop a class, I'd recommend planning your week in advance and trying to be organized."